# Community Contact

Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs

July/August 2010

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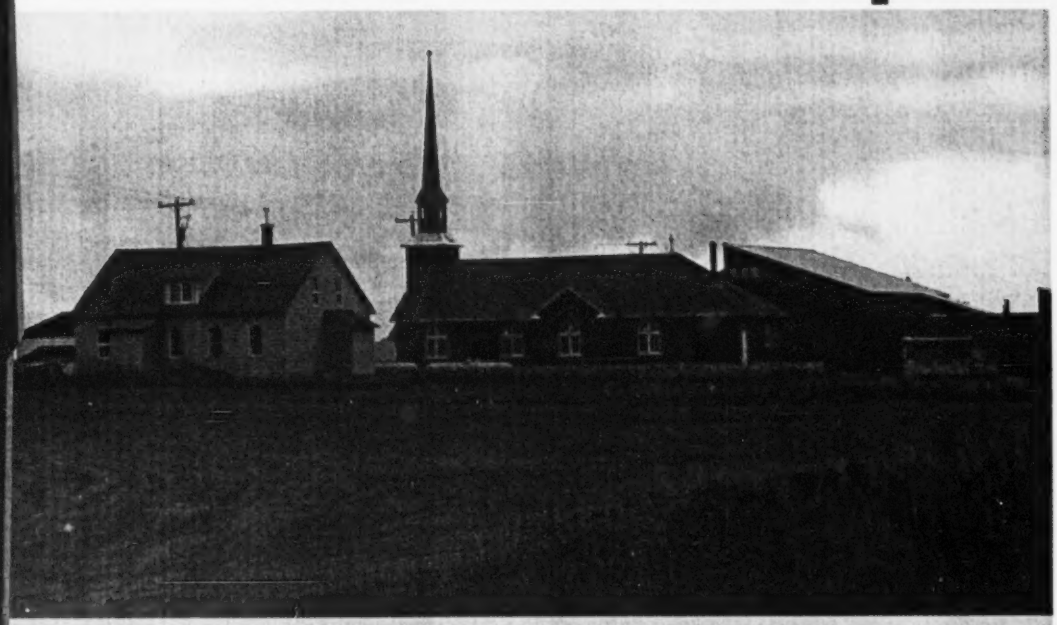
# NACC Reaches 40



**A view of Brochet, Manitoba at the north end of Reindeer Lake shows local church and school buildings. Brochet is the most northerly ANA community represented by NACC.**

Manitoba

# This Issue

**Welcome to this special edition of the July/August *Community Contact* newsletter.**

In this issue we focus on the celebration of the Northern Association of Community Councils (NACC) 40th Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Tradeshow.
The purpose of the NACC, like many other associations is to represent their members and bring forward their concerns and issues to government for response.
To do this on a consistent basis for 40 years is quite an accomplishment. With 40 years of history, it is hard to find the right person who can put into words the who, what, how, when and why the association came to be. What we have gathered is only a small picture of the beginning history of NACC.

So how did NACC grow to where it is today? Our feature articles take us back to the early beginnings of the association to see who was involved and how they got started. We continue with a look at the plans for the upcoming 40th AGM and list some of future initiatives the association will be involved with. We were also fortunate to get a personal view of the association from the first NACC employee who many people know as Harvey Bostrom, now deputy minister for Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs. We round out this special look at NACC with several pictures of past and present board members and staff.

Along with these articles, we include a greeting from Minister Eric Robinson and a reminder to communities to complete their asset inventory list by September 8. Closing out this issue is the municipal calendar with reminders for the months of August and September 2010.

Enjoy this issue and feel free to contact us as shown on the back cover to request additional copies. We also encourage your comments and article suggestions. If you've taken a photo that supports your suggestions or shows something you consider special about your community, we'd like to see it, too.

# Northern Associa Celebrates 40 Yea

**NACC 2010 executive (left to right): Francis McIvor, Northern Region chairperson; Glen Flett, Northern Region vice-chairperson; Chandler McLeod, Eastern Region vice-chairperson; Barbara Marcyniuk, Eastern Region secretary treasurer; Helgi Einarsson, Eastern Region chairperson; Reg Meade, NACC president; Anne Lacquette, Western Region chairperson; Harold Fleming, Western Region secretary treasurer; Larry Chartrand, Western Region vice-chairperson. Missing from the photo is Martha Chartrand, Northern Region secretary treasurer.**

## *The Present – 40th Annual General Meeting and Tradeshow*

Tuesday, August 17, 2010 is the first day of the three-day Northern Association of Community Councils (NACC) 40th Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Tradeshow. The theme for the annual general meeting and tradeshow is **40 Years of Dedication to the Continuing Growth of our Communities.**

To help make this a special AGM for the participants, the venue for the 40th anniversary is the Ambassador Banquet Hall at Canad Inns Polo Park. This year's location will provide a new look for the AGM. It will allow more community representatives to attend, provide more room for regional meetings and a larger tradeshow area.

As with past NACC annual general meetings, Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs (ANA) will host an information day as part of the three-day event. The information day will begin with a special opening ceremony to mark the 40th anniversary, followed by several presentations throughout the rest

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of the day. Some of the confirmed presentations are on the following subjects:

- Climate change – discussion on the impacts and challenges of climate change in Manitoba.
- Waste Reduction and Recycling Support Program (WRARS) – review of new legislation regarding waste disposal sites in Manitoba.
- Aboriginal Procurement Initiative (API) – review and discussion of how this will be applied by the department when tendering capital projects and how communities and Aboriginal businesses can participate.
- Community Futures Manitoba – an overview of the services provided to northern communities and highlights of some success stories in these communities.

To observe this year's milestone of 40 years, NACC has decided to celebrate its social evening differently than it has in past events. Instead of a typical Manitoba social evening, this year, participants will enjoy a cocktail hour and a sit-down dinner. After dinner, entertainment will include a magic act, a music DJ, dancing and plenty of fun for all.

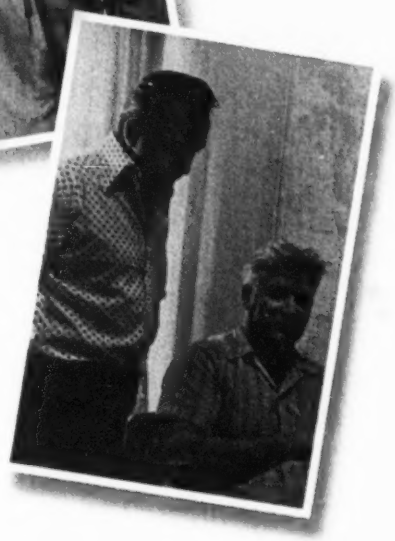
Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs looks forward to being part of this special occasion and wishes NACC all the best for another 40 productive years.

**NACC staff (left to right): Mallory Fleming, executive director; Kaeleen Tapp, administrative assistant; Megan Dudeck, assistant event planner; Amy Yonda, NHFI project co-ordinator; Chelsea Fitzner, finance officer.**

## *The Past – a brief look back*

In 1966, *The Commissioner of Northern Manitoba Affairs Act* passed, setting the stage for creating a northern affairs commission under the Urban Development and Municipal Affairs department. NACC began as the Community Councils and Committees established in 1968 under the jurisdiction of the Commissioner of Northern Affairs. NACC was created in 1969 and granted legal status as a corporation on November 15, 1971.

**Delphis Flamond of Camperville was the first NACC Western Region Chairman.**



**First NACC president Kip Thompson (standing) of Ilford and first Eastern Region Chairman Bill Bennett of Matheson Island.**

The first annual general meeting was held in June 1970. Forty-eight delegates attended from 11 elected community councils and 29 remote communities. The first executive committee for the NACC was also elected at this meeting, and consisted of the following individuals:

- President – **Kip Thompson** of Ilford
- Northern Region Chairman – **Don McIvor** of Wabowden
- Eastern Region Chairman – **Bill Bennett** of Matheson Island
- Western Region Chairman – **Delphis Flamond** of Camperville

The 11 community councils present when the NACC was formed included:

- Barrows
- Cormorant
- Moose Lake
- Pikwitonei
- Ilford
- Pelican Rapids
- Duck Bay
- Camperville
- Crane River
- Matheson Island
- Wabowden

The formation of the NACC marked the first time that Manitoba Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people worked together as one association for the purpose of organizing, planning and developing their communities. The association was modeled after the vision of a few northern mayors, shortly following the introduction of a local government system for Northern Manitoba. It was identified at this time that several remote or isolated communities could have a much stronger voice if they spoke as one collective entity.

The core objective of NACC is to be a voice for the small northern communities and to promote the improvement of local services at the community level. These services consist of local as well as government initiatives such as the following:

- water treatment
- waste disposal and recycling
- roads and drainage systems
- emergency services and emergency planning
- street lighting
- community development and planning
- recreation development
- public transportation systems
- libraries and schools

NACC helps communities assess the economic potential of the regions in which they are located. They investigate circumstances that may inhibit the development process in the communities and they make recommendations for the removal of such circumstances. NACC is proactive in encouraging all parties involved in the developmental process, (ex: communities and governments) to co-operate so that all objectives may be met.

One of the major tasks of the NACC is to provide communication between the community councils, local committees and government bodies. In NACC's 40 years as an advocacy group, it has displayed dedication and commitment to recognizing and creating awareness, with both provincial and federal governments, of the various needs of the communities served by the association.

## *The Future – developing sustainable communities*

What will NACC bring forward to councils in the next 40 years? The association will continue in its advocacy role of helping communities bring their issues to government and helping with infrastructure, social and economic development at the community level. It will be up to the member communities to provide direction and to support the initiatives of the association. Developing and maintaining strength and unity are key factors to the success of the organization. This will not change as the association moves forward, it will only grow.

An area where NACC is taking a lead for members is technology. Improvements in technology are providing NACC with more tools to increase communication with member communities and with government departments. Member communities are embracing the use of new technology in how they do their work and in some of the services provided to residents. Some of the technology initiatives NACC is working on for its member communities include:

- establishing cell phone towers for service in remote areas
- supporting high speed Internet capacity
- developing community websites

The association will continue to be involved in established programs such as the Northern Healthy Foods Initiative (NHFI), Northern Water Smart and Boat Operator Accredited Training (BOAT) programs, the East Side Road Authority and the Fisher Bay Park Reserve. These programs started small and grew to a point where almost all member communities have been involved in one form or another.

NACC has developed into a well-respected political organization that serves the interests of northern and remote Manitoba communities. It will continue to serve those interests in the future by establishing partnerships with public and private companies, businesses and organizations throughout Manitoba. With continued support by government and member communities, NACC will continue as a positive voice well into the future.

## *Manitoba ANA Communities Listed by NACC Region*

***Western Region:***

- Baden
- Barrows
- Camperville
- Crane River
- Duck Bay
- Mallard
- Meadow Portage
- National Mills
- Powell
- Red Deer Lake
- Rock Ridge
- Salt Point
- Spence Lake
- Waterhen

***Northern Region:***

- Brochet
- Cormorant
- Cross Lake
- Dawson Bay
- Easterville
- God's Lake Narrows
- Granville Lake
- Herb Lake Landing
- Ilford
- Moose Lake
- Nelson House
- Norway House
- Oxford House
- Pelican Rapids
- Pikwitonei
- Sherridon
- South Indian Lake
- Thicket Portage
- Wabowden

***Eastern Region:***

- Aghaming
- Berens River
- Bissett
- Dallas/Red Rose
- Dauphin River
- Fisher Bay
- Harwill
- Homebrook
- Island Lake
- Little Grand Rapids
- Loon Straits
- Manigotagan
- Matheson Island
- Pine Dock
- Princess Harbour
- Red Sucker Lake
- Seymourville

**A selection of NACC snapshots from annual general meetings held in years past shows both the business and the social side. Do you recognize any faces? Perhaps you were there when ANA assistant deputy minister Oliver Boulette joined the Mike Malcolm Band on the fiddle during the 25th Anniversary celebration held on the Paddlewheel Princess.**

# First NACC Employee Recalls Early Years

Many Northern Manitoba residents know Harvey Bostrom as Deputy Minister for Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs (ANA). But did you also know that he was the first employee hired by the newly formed Northern Association of Community Councils (NACC) in 1972?

NACC did not have any employees when it incorporated in 1971. Harvey was attending the University of Manitoba studying for a master's degree in economics when he heard about the startup organization. From living in the community of Manigotagan, Harvey knew first-hand that it was often difficult for his community and similar small communities to have government notice them. Decisions affecting small communities in the province were often made without consulting or communicating with their residents. While attending the second meeting of NACC, he noted that the organization was turning into one that Manitoba's remote and northern communities needed, to help bring their messages to government. Until NACC was formed, many communities felt they had no means to express their concerns or influence local civic affairs.

For NACC to take on being an advocate for its member communities, it would need to have staff to accomplish this. With some program funding support from the provincial government, NACC was able to begin the search for staff. Harvey Bostrom became the first person hired by the executive in 1972. His job was to help them select and supervise the other new employees they would have to hire. Today the position has the title of NACC executive director.

One of the first major accomplishments by the new staff was to secure core funding for NACC operations. This funding was vital to the long-term survival of the association. With funding secured, NACC was able to move forward and begin working with communities to identify their needs and bring their concerns to government. It was a lot of work organizing regional meetings and traveling to communities, but this was required if NACC was to represent its member communities properly.

The early meetings of the association were quite stormy, with many of the people in attendance challenging government officials on their decisions or on their progress with various initiatives. During this time, NACC enjoyed a high profile in the province and was often in the media spotlight questioning government decisions and pushing for more community services. NACC worked closely with the Commission of Northern Affairs (now known as Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs) in promoting community issues to various departments and government as a whole.

Harvey Bostrom left NACC in the spring of 1973 when he was elected a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) for northern Manitoba's Rupertsland riding. During his time as an MLA and deputy minister, Harvey was able to continue working with NACC to support initiatives brought forward by member communities. In their 40 years as an association, NACC has succeeded in representing the needs of its members and polishing their ability to work with government to get things done in northern communities. Harvey believes the association will continue to be a strong voice for northern and remote communities, well into the future.

**Circa mid-1970s, Norway House Mayor Tache Forbister (left) chats informally with MLA Harvey Bostrom.**

## *A Message from the Minister*

It is a pleasure and an honour for me to congratulate the Northern Association of Community Councils (NACC) on the completion of 40 years representing the people of northern and remote Manitoba communities. The growth of NACC during the past four decades and its many achievements are well known across our province. The provincial government has been pleased to work with current and past NACC presidents, executive and staff on a wide variety of issues and challenges.

The NACC executive and staff have spent many long hours serving their communities and encouraging development. Over the past decade, we have worked closely with NACC to bring forward a new Northern Affairs Act and modernize local community council governments. We have also helped improve infrastructure, providing over $50 million for capital improvements, including new or upgraded water treatment plants and lagoons in more than twenty communities. NACC has been one of our strongest partners in the Northern Healthy Foods Initiative and it has been heavily involved in numerous other provincial projects benefitting NACC communities.

I thank them for being an important ally in many accomplishments and I wish the best in years to come for all of their member communities.

**Eric Robinson, Minister**
Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs

# 2010
# Community Inventory Day is September 8

Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs (ANA) community councils are required to maintain accurate records of all community physical assets for inventory control and insurance purposes. By September each year, every community council will receive an inventory list of their assets from their regional ANA office.

Community councils must verify assets listed in their community inventory and return the report to their ANA regional office by November 1, every year. Failure to verify and submit the community inventory report will mean no insurance coverage will exist.

The following forms are part of the *Local Government Development Manual of Policies and Procedures* (Appendix G8). ANA provides each community council with a copy of the manual including the forms. The forms were designed to help communities keep inventory records updated:

- Vehicle Input Form
- Asset Input Form
- Equipment Input Form
- Multiple Equipment Input Form
- Field Definition of Equipment Type
- Inventory Disposal Form

ANA recommends that community councils schedule an inventory day every year on the second Wednesday in September. For 2010, that day is September 8, 2010. Mark your calendars and plan to take the day to complete your inventory.

If your community's inventory verification report is not received on time, ANA may hire a contractor to complete it. Costs associated with completing the inventory will be deducted from operation and maintenance funding for the following year.

If you have any questions, please contact your regional office.

# Municipal Calendar Monthly Reminder for August and September 2010

## August 2010

1 Deadline for receipt of any property tax payments to department to avoid penalties.

3 CIVIC HOLIDAY.

15 Deadline for receipt of payment to Receiver General to avoid penalty.

16 Follow-up with auditor for audit exit interview.

18 **Management Maintenance Systems (MMS)** – isolate lagoon cells.

20 If required, request election official training, for October election.

31 DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF MARCH 31, 2010 AUDIT.

***Event:***

- August 17 to 19: Northern Association of Community Councils (NACC) 40th AGM and Tradeshow at the Canad Inn Polo Park in Winnipeg.
- August 23 to 27: Northern Links Recreation and Wellness Workshop at Simonhouse Lake in Grass River Provincial Park, north of The Pas.

***Community:***

- Submit Municipal Employee Benefits Program (MEBP) form and payment no later than seven working days after the last pay period.
- If applicable, submit bi-weekly payrolls for the Building Independence Program to regional office.

***WSH Reminders:***

- Council to ensure fire extinguishers and first aid kits inspected.
- Council to act on items highlighted as corrective action from inspections.
- Are your employee training records up to date?

***Departmental:***

- Regional review of capital project applications.
- Plan infrastructure schedule.
- Send community inventory reports for updating for receipt by department on September 1.

## September 2010

1 Deadline for receipt of any property tax payments to department to avoid penalties.

Receipt of community inventory reports to update in conjunction with the infrastructure audit.

2 **MMS** – Lagoon samples sent out.

**MMS** – Minimum two-week isolation for lagoon.

6 LABOUR DAY.

8 Inventory Day: Update community inventory report.

15 Deadline for receipt of payment to Receiver General to avoid penalty.

16 **MMS** – furnaces and heaters serviced.

17 **MMS** – crawlspace vents closed.

20 Senior election official to commence election process for regular election in October.

31 Submit 2009-2010 O&M surplus/deficit approval request.

Municipal taxes are due.

***Event:***

- September 28 to 30: Capital Approval Board meets in Winnipeg.
- September 30 to October 2: Manitoba Emergency Services Conference in Brandon.

***Community:***

- Council to begin planning process to review and update the Community Management Plan (six month review).
- Submit MEBP form and payment no later than seven working days after the last pay period.
- If applicable, submit bi-weekly payrolls for the Building Independence Program to regional office.

***WSH Reminders:***

- Council to ensure fire extinguishers and first aid kits inspected.
- Council to act on items highlighted as corrective action from inspections.
- Planned inspection to be conducted in conjunction with the infrastructure audit by regional office or energy consultants.

***Departmental:***

- INFRASTRUCTURE AUDIT MONTH.
- Final capital project applications submitted to Capital Approval Board.
- Capital Approval Board meets this month to recommend capital projects.

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**Community council members, community residents and department staff are encouraged to submit comments, questions, suggestions, article ideas and photographs to the editor.**